## Most of Governors' Offices Bugged

By Jack Anderson

The most confidential conversations of the nation's governors can be overheard at any point along an emergency telephone system that links Defense beadquarters.

that the red emergency telephones in most governors' offices have been transformed gency. into secret listening devices. The microphone in each rephone on the hook.

Governor Marvin Mandel. The drop on the governors.

classified decuments as "The customers. Special Service Line for Civil Even more mysterious is the on the hotline had bugged at a nearby sate and the strictly hush-hush. It is difficultink it must be the FBI blandel could hardly believe was distinctly author cult, therefore, to get any offi- Others say the CiA is the it. To satisfy himself, he ar By went a voice attraction of its cial information.

has established the following gency phone was bugged. He governor Mandel said the gov-

## Hot Line Tapped

The emergency phones were installed about 15 years ago as part of a secret network their private offices with Civil whose main terminal is located in Colorado Springs. It has just been discovered The network links most gover- up every sound in the room. nors who can be called simultaneously in case of an emer-

ceiver will pick up conversa- up everything said in the gov- office before moving up to the tions in the room when the ernors' offices. Some officials vice presidency. As a result, insist the wiring was an "inno-I personally listened to a cent mistake." But electronics fice regularly for mikes and conversation that an electron-experts say flatly there was no ics expert, using simple possibility of a mistake. They wiretap tools; easily picked up say the phones must have been had been ignored, he said on in the office of Maryland's deliberately rigged to eaves the assumption that the secret phone. Since only the love:-

through the emergency tele- the identity of those responsi- expert insisted upon checking phone. phone under the governor's ble for transforming the gov- it and demonstrated how the An estimated 30 governors mikes. Some officials say the as a secret transmitter. have similar phones that have phones were wired by the Outraged, he called in the could overhear what went on been rigged for cavesdropoung. American Telephone and Tele-telephone people and made insule he office. He is a These insidious phones con- graph Company. Others say other confidential inquiries. nect into a hotline, which ena- the rigging was done by the He said the telephone official trooper trained in election c. bles Civil Defense to have in federal government. A T & T not only acknowledged that to accompan me. The microstant communications with the would make no comment, ex- his special phone was bugged phone was ser wid back into governors in a national crisis. cept to sav all information but said all emergency phones the emergency phones the The hotline, referred to in would have to come from the were wired the same way. This Cooper us d common wiretap

Defense," is supposed to be identity of the listeners. Some phones, they told him. most likely culprit

sources, however, this column first to discover his the lency phone of a neighboring

angrily summoned telephone ernor, whom he decimed to officials and demanded to identify, was also shocked to know who was responsible and how the phore transmit-This column got wind of his ted all the convertations in protests and questioned him.

He confirmed that an electronics specialist had checked the red phone under his desk

He said his predecessor, The receivers were wired in Spiro Agnew, had discovered a such a way that they can pick hidden mike in the governor's Mandel began checking the ofwiretaps after he moved in,

The red emergency phone hotline must be secure. But nor is supposed to answer the conversation was transmitted. Secreey is used to cover up last month, a new electronics hotline, she didn't pak up the ernors' phones into hidden emergency phone functioned in \$5.00 to tap into the hotline

would mean all the governors to its to plud into the could

From unofficial but reliable Governor Mandel was the specialist to check the emer. could easily have been end.

## Emergency Rings

Meanwhile, Mandel orderell and found it was wired to pick the in crophone required from his emergency phone. He said the phone had never rung dur-Agnew's Office Bugged ing his 22 months as governor and probably hadn't been used since it was in talled. But the day after he removed the meer phone, the phone ran\_

> lie hopen d to be ou of the office but he personal secret ry, Galley Divald, confirmed to this column that there had been six plore, sharp rouss on the emir by

I asked the cover of prein 13st for in whether I Lt. Norval Comment a sale word s okea in the giver or's ranged to send an electronics corder, the full non-emaning

1979, Boll-M-Clare Syndians Inc.